

Dear parents and carers,

Please see below this week's Chesterton blog. We hope you enjoy reading the updates from departments and teams across the school.



Thank you so much to all our staff and students for their ongoing hard work.

The team at Chesterton are always keen to hear from parents who'd like to get involved with school life: please don't hesitate to get in touch if this is true for you.

All the best for a restful weekend.

Rolf Purvis
Executive Headteacher

Ski Adventure in Austria

Just before the Christmas break, 76 of our students embarked on an unforgettable ski trip to the stunning alpine town of Kaprun, Austria. This week-long adventure was a perfect blend of fun, learning, and breathtaking scenery, offering something for everyone, regardless of their skiing experience.

The slopes of Kaprun provided an ideal setting for skiers of all abilities. From complete beginners taking their first steps on the snow to seasoned skiers carving their way down the mountains. Students also visited the local towns including a Christmas market.

Throughout the week, the students were exemplary representatives of our school. Their positivity, teamwork, and respectful behaviour made us incredibly proud.

A huge thank you goes to the staff members who organised and supervised this trip.



6th Form German Students Shine at BFI Film Study Day

In December, four of our A Level German students attended the Legacy of East Germany: A Film Study Day at the British Film Institute (BFI) in London. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their cultural and linguistic understanding of German through the medium of cinema.

The day began with a fascinating morning session conducted entirely in German. This immersive approach challenged students to engage with the complexities of East Germany's social, political, and cultural legacy, while simultaneously developing their listening and comprehension skills. The session featured analysis of iconic films about the GDR era, including *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003), *Der Ballon* (2018), *Das Leben der Anderen* (2006), and *Sonnenallee* (1999). Students explored how cinematic techniques such as camera angles and music are used to convey narratives of power structures, sparking insightful discussions.

We were particularly proud when one of our students was praised by the session leader for his valuable contributions to the analysis. His thoughtful interpretations showcased a deep understanding of the material and an impressive ability to articulate his ideas confidently in German.

In the afternoon workshop, the students delved deeper into *Good Bye, Lenin!*—a film they study as part of their A Level course. The focused analysis reinforced their knowledge of the film and its historical context, leaving them inspired and better prepared for their upcoming assessments.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for our students to interact with a large cohort of other A Level German learners from schools across the UK. With our Sixth Form German classes being small and language learning often viewed as niche, it was incredibly encouraging for them to be surrounded by like-minded peers who share their passion for the subject.

Overall, the trip was a resounding success. We are delighted to congratulate our students on their enthusiastic participation and thank them for representing the school so well. Their curiosity and commitment to learning German truly shone throughout the day.



Year 8 Students Take on 'Hive Heroes' Science Challenge

On Tuesday afternoon Dr Timney's year 8 Science class took part in a 'Hive Heroes' workshop run by Lily Hunter Green and Karun Matharu from the Maori lab at the University of Cambridge. The game-based activity had groups of students role playing as worker honey bees whilst the wearable tech vests keep track of their current health.

Students learnt how infections, but also immunity via transmissible RNA, could be spread through the colony as a result of their collective behaviour whilst carrying out essential hive jobs. They then developed behaviour strategies to help to keep the colony successful and healthy.

Not only great fun for our students, but the strategies they developed and analysis of their movements during the game will be fed back into the ongoing research at the Maori lab.

More information on the project can be found [here](#).



TEAM	SURVIVAL STATUS	POLLEN COUNT	TOTAL
HIVE 1			
HIVE 2			
HIVE 3			
HIVE 4			
HIVE 5			
HIVE 6			
HIVE 7			
HIVE 8			
HIVE 9			
HIVE 10			

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Chesterton Youth Theatre are excited to announce auditions for **'Mary Poppins Jr'**, which are taking place after-school next Wednesday 15th January 2025 (with a pre-audition preparation workshop after-school on Tuesday 14th January). This classic musical is one which we hope will be loved by all the family, and is due to be performed at the end of the Easter term. On this occasion, the cast size is limited to a maximum of 35 performers from Years 7 – 13, and we envisage the audition process being competitive, in contrast to 'Finding Nemo', when everyone who auditioned was invited to take part. Whilst this selection process may sound daunting, it is no different to the 'first eleven' being selected for a football game from a training session, and we hope all students auditioning will enjoy and learn from this experience in itself. The aim with this particular production is to stretch and challenge our most able performers in an intensive rehearsal process which we hope will result in a musical that will impress and uplift a community audience within and beyond the school. Anyone interested in giving it a go should consult the audition pack on the link [here](#).

We'd love to see you there! As Mary Poppins says in the musical *"Open different doors. You may find a YOU there that you never knew was yours. Anything can happen!"*....Information about other drama projects will feature in the next blog article from the drama department!

Mirada Live at Cambridge Junction!



After an unforgettable performance last September, Year 10's very own **Mirada** is returning to the stage! Don't miss your chance to see this talented band live on **Saturday, 18th January at Cambridge Junction**, part of The Fiver gig series. Grab your tickets [here](#). Use the code **miradaband** at checkout for a discount. This is your opportunity to support incredible young talent and enjoy a night of great live music. Bring your friends and join us for what promises to be another standout performance!

We'll see you there!

